

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DHA-02

TRSE-00 CU-02 IO-13 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00 /080 W

-----221634Z 070331 /45

O 221519Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6398

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEGUCIGALPA 1808

FROM: BECKER

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR/HO

SUBJECT: BACKGROUND TO THE PRESIDENT'S OAS SPEECH

REF: STATE 084912

1. I AM MOST GRATEFUL FOR THE BACKGROUND PROVIDED YOUR CABLE. THE APPROACH IS WELL-SUITED TO THE TIME AND CIRCUMSTANCES IN OUR PRESENT RELATIONS WITH THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. TOO OFTEN RHETORIC AND DESIRE FOR IMMEDIATE AND POSITIVE PUBLIC RELATIONS IMPACT OVERSHADOWS THE NECESSITY TO ESTABLISH A VIABLE FOUNDATION FOR STRENGTHENING RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES -- COLLECTIVELY AND INDIVIDUALLY -- OVER THE LONGER PERIOD.

2. THE MAKING OF A MAJOR POLICY SPEECH ON LATIN AMERICA SO

EARLY IN THE ADMINISTRATION SUGGESTS A HIGHER PRIORITY FOR LATIN AMERICA THAN IN THE PAST. FOR REASONS WHICH NEED NOT BE ELABORATED HERE, INABILITY A PRIOR ADMINISTRATION TO DELIVER, COMBINED WITH OTHER PREOCCUPATIONS, SADDLED U.S. LATIN AMERICAN  
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POLICY WITH THE CHARACTERIZATION OF "BENIGN NEGLECT." IN RETROSPECT THE EMPHASIS WAS TOO MUCH MULTILATERAL SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS PERCEIVED BY LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS AS BILATERAL ONES. THE PRESENT APPROACH IS EMINENTLY MORE SENSIBLE AND THE EMPHASIS ON TREATING COUNTRIES AS INDIVIDUAL ENTITIES AND NOT LUMPED TOGETHER AS LATIN AMERICA IS REALISTIC AND CONSTRUCTIVE.

3. THE ECONOMIC AID PROGRAM CONTINUES, AS IT SHOULD BE, A PRINCIPAL MEANS WHEREBY RESOURCES CAN BE EMPLOYED TO SUPPORT EFFORTS AIMED AT EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE -- HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE BROAD SENSE. IN THIS RESPECT WE MUST NOT PERMIT OUR OUTRAGE OVER THE DRAMATIC, BUT RELATIVELY FEW SEVERE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS TO CLOUD THE LESS DRAMATIC BUT OVERWHELMING AND PERVASIVE LACK OF OPPORTUNITY FOR AN APPALLINGLY LARGE PERCENTAGE OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS HEMISPHERE -- IN BOTH POOR COUNTRIES AND IN THE SO-CALLED "MIDDLE INCOME" COUNTRIES. THIS ADDRESS, A REAFFIRMATION OF THE "CONGRESSIONAL MANDATE," SHOULD ENCOURAGE AID TO INTENSIFY ITS EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS TO REALIGN THEIR PRIORITIES, WHERE NECESSARY, TO SERVE THEIR DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE BETTER.

4. THE SUGGESTION OF "NEW PEOPLE TO PEOPLE PROGRAMS," CULTURAL EXCHANGES AND THE LIKE IS WELCOME, BUT MAY I OBSERVE THAT THE CONGRESS HAS BEEN UNWILLING TO APPROPRIATE MUCH IN THE PAST. WE MAY FIND OURSELVES INCREASINGLY TAPPING PRIVATE SOURCES WHICH ARE ACTIVE IN LATIN AMERICA. U.S. COMPANIES HAVE BEEN RESPONSIVE TO INDIVIDUAL SOLICITATIONS. PERHAPS EFFORTS COULD BE DIRECTED MORE SYSTEMATICALLY TO OBTAINING THEIR SUPPORT FOR CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN COUNTRIES OF THEIR PRIMARY INTEREST.

5. THE PUBLIC RELATIONS IMPACT IN HONDURAS OF THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS WAS NEITHER PRONOUNCED NOR SUBSTANTIAL -- NOR SHOULD SUCH HAVE BEEN EXPECTED. THERE WAS ADHERENCE TO PROFESSED AMERICAN VALUES. THERE WERE NO EXTRAVAGANT CLAIMS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OR PROMISES -- AND AFTER ALL THESE ARE THE HEADLINE GETTERS. WHAT COMMENTARY THERE WAS, WAS FAVORABLE. DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES COMMENTED, PREDICTABLY, ON WHETHER THEIR COUNTRIES HAD OR HAD NOT BEEN THE TARGET OF RECENT EXCHANGES ON HUMAN RIGHTS. I WILL CONFIDENTLY HAZARD A GUESS THAT THE IMPACT OF THE ADDRESS ON OUR RELATIONS WITH INDIVIDUAL NATIONS, AND IN TIME WITH THE PEOPLES OF THESE NATIONS, IS LIKELY TO BE MORE DURABLE THAN MANY SIMILAR STATEMENTS OF THE PAST.

6. WITH RESPECT TO AN EFFECT ON OUR RELATIONS WITH HONDURAS, THE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES CONSTITUTES A VIABLE FRAMEWORK. HONDURAS IS NOT TROUBLED BY OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POSTURE. THE GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO DEVELOPING THE COUNTRY AND IMPROVING THE WELL-BEING OF ITS POOR PEOPLES. OUR BILATERAL AID PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO ASSIST THEM IN THIS RESPECT.

7. THUS, I THINK THE ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT IS A GOOD BEGINNING. IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO BUILD UPON IT. ONCE

OUR DEDICATION TO CERTAIN PRINCIPLES IS UNDERSTOOD -- AND  
LET US NOTFORGET THAT THE UNITED STATES AND LATIN AMERICAN  
NATIONS HAVE A LONG HISTORY OF MISUNDERSTANDING EACH OTHER --  
AND THEY UNDERSTAND AS WELL THAT WE WILL FRANKLY AND OPENLY  
EXPRESS OUR VIEWS ON SUCH SENSITIVE ISSUES AS HUMAN RIGHTS,  
BUT THAT THERE IS A LINE OVER WHICH WE WILL NOT TREAD, THEN  
AND ONLY THEN CAN WE BEGIN TO BUILD THE LONG TERM VIABLE  
RELATIONSHIP WHICH HAS BEEN ABSENT FOR SOME LITTLE TIME.  
BECKER

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## Message Attributes

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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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